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Message Text

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70
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /146 W
---------- 014949
R 251616Z SEP 74
FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1798
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EMIN EIND EFIN NS
SUBJECT: FURTHER POSTPONEMENT GOS-ALCOA TALKS POSSIBLE

REF: A. PARAMARIBO 395
B. PARAMARIBO 415
C. SANTO DOMINGO 3879

1. WITH MINPRES ARRON DEPARTING SEPTEMBER 26 FOR MEETINGS IN HOLLAND ON NATIONALITY DEVELOPMENT AND DEFENSE QUESTIONS, SURALCO MANAGER BUSTION NOW EXPECTS LONG-DELAYED TALKS WITH GOS ON REVENUE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE FURTHER POSTPONED. BUSTION AND ARRON HAD EXPECTED TO START CONFERRING NEXT MONTH, SEEMINGLY ONLY "FREE" TIME AVAILABLE BEFORE END OF YEAR.

2. NOVEMBER, AT LEAST, WILL BE VERY BUSY MONTH FOR GOS SINCE AGREED PRE-INDEPENDENCE RECOMMENDATIONS OF REALM PARTNERS MUST BE TABLED THEN AND SECOND IBA CONFERENCE SCHEDULED THAT MONTH AT GEORGETOWN. GIVEN ON-AGAIN, OFF-AGAIN NATURE GOS-SURALCO TALKS, PROBABLY UNWISE TO RULE OUT SUDDEN GOS DECISION TO AT LEAST HOLD INITIAL MEETINGS
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WITH COMPANY IN OCTOBER. SURALCO MANAGER, HOWEVER, HAS

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DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH HIS PLANS TO BE ABROAD MOST OF THAT MONTH.

3. WHILE IT SEEMS TO US THAT EARLIEST DATE IS BEST DATE FOR TALKS, BUSTION TAKES SOME COMFORT FROM DELAY BASED ON SPREADING SPECULATION REGARDING DURABILITY OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT: ANY CHANGE WOULD RESULT IN RETURN OF CONSERVATIVE VHP TO POWER, PROBABLY IN COALITION WITH NPS, AND THIS MORE BUSINESS-ORIENTED GROUPING LIKELY TREAT SURALCO MORE GENEROUSLY THAN CURRENT GOS.

4. COMMENT: CONTINUING INDEFINITE STATUS OF GOS-SURALCO (ALCOA) TALKS MAY ACCOUNT FOR POSSIBILITY RAISED REF C THAT ALCOA HAS NOW DECIDED GET ON WITH ITS DOMINICAN NEGOTIATIONS. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO (3671) THAT IT MAY BE TO ALCOA'S ADVANTAGE ENDEAVOR STRIKE EARLY BARGAIN WITH DR ON BAUXITE REVENUES BEFORE IBA MEETING AND BEFORE SURALCO-GOS TALKS MATERIALIZE. ALTHOUGH WE CONTINUE BELIEVE THAT GOS APPROACH WILL BE MILDER THAN JAMAICAN, ELEMENTS IN LOCAL PICTURE SUGGEST THAT DOMINICAN NEGOTIATIONS UNLIKELY PREJUDICE TALKS HERE; IN FACT COULD SERVE AS RELATIVELY BENIGN EXAMPLE.
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